

tattersalls

newsletter **July 2002**

New Look Committee

Two new Committee members were elected at the Annual General Meeting on May 30th.

Simon Forsyth and Peter Werner were elected to fill the vacancies caused by the retirements of Errol Chant and Michael Gillis.

Simon, who has his own design company brings us a background in corporate and graphic design and advertising, specialising in the financial and business sector.

Peter, who has his own recruiting agency with fellow Tattersalls Member Martin Watkins, has a background in merchant banking and recruitment in the financial services industry.

Both new Committee men have been appointed to the Functions and Member Amenities Sub Committee. Furthermore, they will also be assisting with the development of Young Members functions.

Simon and Peter have expressed their enthusiasm to quickly become involved in the operations of the club for the betterment of all members.

Denis Pidcock was re-elected Treasurer of Tattersalls following a challenge by Bob Sanders.



*Simon Forsyth,
Denis Pidcock and
Peter Werner*



Joe Minici takes two
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Titans make the semi's
page 8

from the chairman

What a pleasure it was to be in our crowded Members' Bar in the company of so many new members, their proposers and seconders and a good number of long-standing members who joined me to welcome the new members and to speak to the gathering about our various sporting clubs and activities.



John "Freddie" Tierney led off with the golfers - a crafty bunch if ever there was one. Peter Werner followed with billiards and snooker and told us how to infiltrate that most secret (but also most welcoming) of secret societies. Andrew Torok introduced the swimmers and nearly lost the crowd with tales of perilous ocean swims. Bobbie Sanders reminded us of our valuable racing heritage and race days and Simon Forsyth told tall tales of enormous fish and apres ski with the Fly Fishers and the Skiers. The Chairman's Shout (and yes it is a free bar!) will be on again on the 25th of this month. It is a great opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow members and to bend the ear of the Committee each month.

Every new Committee likes to focus the efforts of committeemen on the key areas of club activity, so that the Committee as a whole can be abreast of the detail needed to make good decisions.

This year we have the following sub-committees:

House

Russell Debney (Convener), Dennis Pidcock, Andrew Leary, Rick Glover, Bob Sanders, John Gowran

Finance

Dennis Pidcock (Convener),
Russell Debney

Functions & Member's Amenities

Andrew Coorey (Convener), Bob Sanders, Tim Maunsell, Simon Forsyth, Peter Werner

Membership

Rick Glover (Convener), Andrew Coorey, Simon Forsyth, Peter Werner

Rugby World Cup

Andrew Coorey (Convener), Rick Glover, Andrew Leary

We also have a new focus group (struggling for a name) led by Peter

Werner and Simon Forsyth which will co-opt mostly younger members to look at the issues involved in integrating new members into the culture and activities of the Club. One likely task will be to survey our entire membership. This was last done in 1994 and much has changed since then.

David Campese was a very welcome guest and after lunch speaker at the first of our members' rugby lunches before the French Sydney Test. Less well known for his prowess on the rostrum than on the field, Campo held the as usual, knowledgeable crowd with his straight talking, right off the hip view of the game and its participants. No mercy was shown to coaches and administrators and one or two wingers might have received some valuable advice were they there. Someone pulled out the old line about how you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy and that was never more apt than in Campo's case. He has lost none of his unpredictability and lack of reverence for the establishment and maybe this was the secret of his success. Another great Tattersalls rugby lunch will be on before the Bledisloe Cup in early August.

I have just heard of the sudden death of Ron Rogers, brother of Neil and Greg and son of the late, great Tattersalls clubman, Norm Rogers. Ron was a great sportsman in his own right; a champion surf swimmer, unbeatable handballer, successful bookmaker and twice winner of the Tattersalls Club Snooker Handicap. Ron had many close friends in our Club who will miss him greatly. Those of us who had the good fortune to meet Ron will remember the very great personal charm he had inherited from Norm. Ron has left us far too early and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Russell Debney



secretary's report

A major upgrade of beer dispensing equipment has recently been undertaken in the Members' Bar. The new "goose necks" provide a quicker and colder dispensing operation than previously, and the addition of Becks beer has also been welcomed. During the next few weeks the range of bottled beer will be increased to cater for member's discerning tastes.

Another new addition to the club is the installation of audio and visual equipment in the Club Rooms 1 and 2. Those who attended the David Campese luncheon were very impressed with the dual screen video production. This equipment is available for all functions, and Members should consider holding their next business function at The Club.

Tim Bowring
Secretary

directory of services

tattersall's Club

181 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000
www.tattersallsclub.org
Founded 1858

Telephone | 02 9264 6111
Facsimile | 02 9267 8312
Banqueting | 02 9263 9204
Athletic Dept | 02 9264 5624

Office Hours
8.30 am - 5 pm | Monday to Friday

Brasserie
7 am - 3.30 pm | Monday, Tuesday & Friday
(bar meals available in the evening)
7 am - 9.30 pm | Wednesday & Thursday

Bar and Billiard Room
Noon - 9 pm | Monday to Wednesday
Noon - 10 pm | Thursday and Friday

Athletic Department
5.30 am - 9 pm | Monday to Friday
6 am - 6 pm | Saturday
Noon - 5 pm | Sunday

tattersalls into the year 2002 calendar of events

july

19th Champagne and Beer tasting
Tickets \$50.00 - In the Members Bar

august

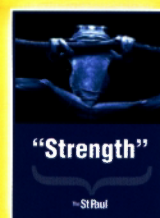
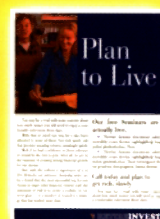
2nd Bledisloe Cup Rugby Lunch
Tickets \$125.00 per person

3rd Bledisloe Cup
Bus Trip To The Stadium.
Televised in the Members Bar

22nd "Off the wing on a prayer" Lunch
The launch of Matt Rogers book

27th US Mens Open Breakfast
In the members Bar \$20.00

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New Audio/Visual Equipment

For those who attended the recent David Campese luncheon, a new era in audio visual presentation in the club was evident. As Tim Bowring mentioned in his Secretary's Report, the function marked the debut of our new ceiling-mounted projectors. These projectors are coupled to the latest in DVD and video equipment, free to air and pay television. The intensity of the projectors is very evident, with quality images being beamed to the two remotely operated screens located over the fireplaces.

The equipment is also connected to a new sound system, which allows for even amplification throughout the two rooms.

"Tattersalls has now entered a new era in audio/visual presentation with the installation on this state-of-the-art equipment. Members and guests can now use this equipment for seminars, luncheons and conferences, with the knowledge that technical backup is available inhouse" said Secretary Manager Bowring. "This further enhances the function facilities at Tattersalls and combined with our catering expertise, ensures our venue is amongst the best in Sydney."



Campese lunch

The rugby lunch held on 28 June was a great success. More than 100 Members and guests were entertained by David Campese, former Wallaby great. Campese was introduced by Tattersalls Member and also former Wallaby, Russell Fairfax.

Always one for controversy, Campese did not disappoint when discussing the past and present Wallaby side and coaches.

A feature of the lunch was the fine food prepared by our talented Executive Chef Simon Flanders. Everyone was unanimous in their praise for the quality of the lunch. Once again the club provided mini-footballs on the tables, which were a sought after item to be autographed by the guest speaker.

Primary Club Dinner

On Wednesday 19 June, The Primary Club, a well known cricket based charity held a dinner at Tattersalls.

Guests of honour were Test Bowler Stuart MacGill and NSW Captain Shane Lee. Also at the evening was former English International Barry Knight.

Convener of the evening, Tattersalls Committeeman and well known cricket enthusiast Rick Glover, noted, "the

evening was a great success, with the guests enjoying the superb hospitality at the club."

Joe Minici takes two Australian Championships

Joe Minici, Tattersalls Snooker and Billiards professional, returned to Sydney recently after winning two Australian Billiards titles in Brisbane.

Joe became the first player ever to win both the traditional format Australian Open and the newer 50 up format championships.

The Open final was played over 6 hours and saw Joe take the rostrum with a 1566 to 1269 point victory. In the 50 up championship final which was played as the best of 15, our man emerged the winner by 8 to 7. Joe was also Australian Open Champion in 1998.

If you want to experience the thrill of the small round ball game and feel that expert tuition would help, Joe is always ready to give you his time. He is in the club each day from 11.00am to 3pm, or you could contact him through the club office.

Just think, you could say casually to your friends that "I played a few frames with the Australian champion the other day..."



Saul Brown
(above) and Brett
Goodhew (right)
in action



Tattersall's Ironman Triathletes

Saul Brown & Brett Goodhew

New Tattersalls member, Saul Brown completed his first Ironman Triathlon in Forster in 1999 in response to a challenge from manic Macquarie Banker and brother-in-law Dave Roberts. After 2 years on the sideline, and often the couch, it was decided to give it another go at this years Forster Ironman.

A 3 month preparation under the supervision of Manly triathlete and coach Matt Koorey saw Saul hit the water for the 3.8 km swim, 180 km bike ride and 42.2 km run feeling the best prepared he'd ever been. Despite some cramping in the swim, that would come back to haunt him in the run, Saul exited the water in 1:03 and set off on the bike, conscious of staying within his target heart rate zones and sticking to the pre-planned race diet.

At the bike-to-run transition Saul was only 10 minutes behind schedule and feeling good. However, running his planned 4 hour marathon became less and less likely as the cramp related soreness refused to go away. It was decided to slow to a comfortable pace and try to enjoy what was left of a long day. Saul crossed the line shortly after dark in front of a few thousand very vocal supporters in a time of 12:09:00. The finish chute at Forster is an unbelievable experience. Saul was very pleased and looking forward to next year.

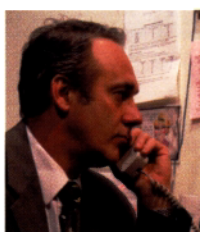
Earlier in the year and across the Tasman another Tattersalls member and Matt

Koorey trained triathlete Brett Goodhew competed in the New Zealand Ironman in Taupo. Brett is a veteran of three Ironman races (Forster 2000 & 2001) and had travelled to New Zealand to race on home soil.

The weather in NZ didn't disappoint with conditions ranging from cold, wet and windy to humid sunshine - most of the day was spent wet and cold. The swim start in NZ, unlike Forster, was a joy with plenty of swimming room for everybody but very cold water - wetsuit a must. After a slower swim than expected of 1:08:00 it was onto the bike for the 180kms, straight into a bitterly cold head wind and pelting rain. Six hours later Brett was off the bike, forty minutes behind schedule. Feeling fine now after having suffered a full stomach bonk for about 120 km at the start of the bike, due to the cold affecting nutrition requirements, Brett finally felt ready to put the pedal down in the run.

The run, over undulating terrain, proved to be the saviour of the day and Brett took 20 minutes off his previous best Ironman marathon time, completing it in 3:48:00 (the 187th fastest of the day) for an overall finish time of 11:02:00 to be 251st of 1060 competitors. Ironman has proved to be addictive (just like golf - you do one good thing, the run, and it keeps you coming back) and training has started already for the coming season. Brett plans to compete in Ironman NZ and Forster in 2003.

Meet our new concierge



Members will have noticed a new face behind the concierge desk recently. Bruce Webb now mans the office from 3pm each day. Bruce is a man of many skills, having been Supervising Steward at HMAS Penguin and previously HQ Training Command, where he looked after generals like Peter Cosgrove and many overseas and local dignitaries. Bruce also had his own visual stylist business for 15 years and was responsible for many displays in locations like David Jones. Using these skills, he's currently working on our club Christmas display.

Bruce said "I'm used to looking after people who have worked hard to attain their positions - there's something special about them." He's happy to help members in any way he can.

the way we were



Epicurean night in the 70's

Swimming in the 70's

*U.S. Olympic Gold medallist Mark Spitz at
board room cocktail party, 1982*

Cocktail party 1982

around the club



Tony Facciolo Appointed Chief Inspector of Golden Key Hotels Standards for China

Six Continent Hotels Corporate Chief Concierge, Asia Pacific, and Concierge for the Inter.Continental Hotel Sydney and Tattersalls Member, Tony Facciolo OAM has been appointed by the Golden Key Hotels of the World as the Chief Inspector of Golden Key Hotels Standards for China.

In an unprecedented move, the Golden Keys Hotels, in recognition of his global experience, has appointed Tony as the first European to the role of Chief Inspector. This new direction by The Golden Key Hotels of the World aims to expedite the exchange of views from the Western system of service into the Chinese system of service to raise the standard of services across all Chinese hotels.

The Chief Inspector role oversees more than 9,000 hotels across every chain in the China area and is in addition to Tony's on-going role as Six Continent Hotels' Corporate Chief Concierge, Asia Pacific, based at the Inter-Continental Hotel Sydney.

"Tony's appointment is the result of over 45 years' experience in the hotel industry, during which he has provided a premium level of service and guest recognition, and continues to do so in his current role with Six Continents Hotels," said Six Continent Hotels' Chief Operating Officer for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, Phil Lee.

Tony Facciolo has made many contributions to the tourism industry and the strong reputation he has enjoyed throughout many successful years is further recognised in the international arena by this new appointment, as well as his current title of World Ambassador for Life of Les Clefs d'Or, the prestigious worldwide society of Concierges.



Young members Cocktail Party July 2nd 1974



Michael McCallum and Eddie Charlton wish each other well, before their match

sports

Tattersalls Titans Make the Semi's

Tattersall's Titans basketball team has enjoyed a resurgence in their most recent season of the Cook and Phillip Park Thursday Night Men's Comp.

Titans stalwarts, Steve Crouch, Brent James and Todd Lyndon combined with the "Comeback Kid" David O'Dowd to spearhead the Titans into their first semi final appearance in the team's five season history.

The Titans make up for what they lack chronologically with an unmatched savvy gained from years of plying their trade. An improved team combination and game plan has allowed the Titans to perform at higher level than in previous seasons and will auger well for more success when the new season tips off in August.

Any interested Members who would like to represent the Titans should contact Brent James domcorp@bigpond.com

Titans Game Results

Round 1	Titans def Floyds	28 - 21
Round 2	Troglodytes def Titans	40 - 23
Round 3	Titans def CP All Stars	Forfeit
Round 4	Titans def And One	34 - 17
Round 5	Deez Nutz def Titans	37 - 25
Round 6	Titans def EY	42 - 33
Round 7	NFI def Titans	43 - 20
Round 8	Titans def Clippers	35 - 34
Round 9	Hotel William def Titans	35 - 22
Round 10	Titans def Beavers	31 - 29
Semi Final	Hotel William def Titans	45 - 22

Tattersalls Athletic Department Squash Championship

The Athletic Department's Squash Champion, Martin Watkins has been kept busy defending his perpetual squash championship successfully five times in the last month from other Members keen to hold the title.

Any Member who would like to challenge Martin for the title can do so through the Athletic Department Manager. The aim of the championship is to build on the strong base of regular players, form a Tattersalls Top 10 and crown a Club Champion by year's end.

Dust the racquet off, stretch those Achilles tendons and make a challenge.

Kings of the Gym Set for August Crowning

The Athletic Department's premier fitness challenge is set to increase heart rates as well as test the best of the best throughout the month of August.

Members of all ages are able to test their fitness in the gruelling multi-disciplined format that combines strength, power, speed and endurance taking in such activities as weight lifting, rowing, running and swimming.

Last year's champions are keen to defend their titles and are busy putting in the hard yards to ensure back-to-back honours.

Don't be a spectator! Come and have a go at the King of the Gym.

2001 King of the Gym Champions

Open: Peter Thiel
Over 40's: Wally Meakes
Over 50's: John Tierney
Over 60's: John Greaves

2002 King of the Gym Format

3 mins on Spinning Bike
 200 Punches on the heavy bag
 30 Bench Presses @ 30% of bodyweight
 + 20kg bar
 30 Leg Presses @ 70% of bodyweight
 + 50kg
 1km Row on Level 6
 50 Step ups with 20lbs Dumbbells in
 each hand
 30 Chin-ups @ 50% of bodyweight
 50 Sit-ups Military Style (wrist to knee)
 1km Run on Treadmill
 250m Swim (10 laps of Tattersalls Pool)



SWIMMING NEWS

The inaugural Tattersalls Waterford Crystal Calcutta Auction Dinner is scheduled for Friday July 26th. Please note this date in your diaries and please support this worthy event. The Calcutta Committee consist of John Greaves, Charlie Robinson, Tim Bowring and Harry Turner. No member of this Committee will be either participating in the event or have any interest in any participant. Swimmers and members of the Committee will be at arm's length at all times thus ensuring fairness to all owners and swimmers.

Month 4 saw legend Terry Forrest take out the 50 metre point score, with "Mr Rock", Tom Nolan triumphant in the 100 metre. The Manchester Unity swimmer of the month award went to Pat Bryant.

We welcomed new swimmers Saul Brown, Simon Forsyth, Luke Morgan and Richard McGrath to the Swim Club this month with Michael Coleman, John de Mestre, Callum Macleod, Mad Dog McMahon, Charlie Wells. Tony Johnson and Michael Ward returning to the fold. It must be Calcutta fever.

Results of month 4 swimming were:

Tattersall's Gift Voucher Award 50m

1 Terry Forest	31 points
2 Peter Gibson	29 points
3 Shaun Clyne	27 points

Clock Hotel Award 100m Award

1 Tony Nolan	26 points
2 Pat Bryant	21 points
2 Mark Roufeil	21 points
2 Peter Thiel	21 points

YTD End Month 4 50m

1 Andrew Torok	92 points
2 Pat Bryant	90 points
3 Peter Gibson	87 points

YTD End Month 4 100m

1 Peter Thiel	89 points
2 Cesar Puertolas	81 points
3 John Greaves	75 points

Swimmer of the Month -
Month 4 Manchester Unity Health Award.

Committee's Choice- Pat Bryant

Progress Points in the Col Bowes Memorial Trophy. Leaders are:

1 Mark Roufeil	19 points
2 Peter Theil	17.5 points
3 John McCosker	16 points
3 Andrew Torok	16 points

OCEAN SWIMS: Congratulations Callum Macleod (age group winner), Peter Theil (age group runner up), Shaun Clyne, Richard Jagger and David Grossberg on their fine performances in the Byron Bay ocean swim held earlier this month.

TRAINING SQUAD: The early morning swim squad meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6.45am. If you are interested in style correction and aerobic fitness, please come and join us. If you need further information contact John Greaves or Harry Turner.

SNOOKER REPORT

The activity in the Room continues to pick up as we move through the early rounds of the Annual Handicap Snooker Championship. As is standard in this tournament, plenty of favourites fall at the early posts. This year Veny Hrouda, John Gowran, James Bacon and Peter Werner are already in the gallery for the balance of the competition. Also, entries for the other major competitions have now closed and we will soon commence those games.

Now it is with a heavy heart that I need to report to all members, but in particular those from the Snooker fraternity, of the very sudden passing of Ron Rogers on Monday July 1, 2002.

Ron was in every measure a truly great bloke. A champion swimmer and athlete, Ron was one of a very select group who were dual winners of the Handicap Snooker. Ron was not often seen in the Club of recent times, being based in Queensland, but on those occasions when he was working the Sydney tracks and could drop in, it was always a great pleasure to see him. Our thoughts are with his family and children. Rest in peace Ron.

Till next month

Chalky."

sports

Tattersalls Flyrodders

June Sydney Harbour water temperature 14 degrees. If you're a brave angler there are fish out there to be caught.

Or, if you like a bit more action this is the time to start to think about going north to the Cape for some real action. I know that some members are heading that way so we look forward to see some photos of some big fish.

Stuart Reed from Fishabout Tours tells me that this is the time of the year the big flathead come up from the depths - well that was the case for Geoff Miller, one of our new members. He caught this monster lizard in a secret location near his holiday house in Coffs harbour, he tells me that it fed the whole family, plus by the size of it, the population of Coffs Harbour.

We are underway with preparations for the first Tattersalls freshwater fishing competition which will be held down in the snowy mountains in spring. We are waiting to see what the snowfalls are like this year before we book a final date. So watch this space.

In the month of August our guest speaker is Mike Felton from the Felty's Flies fame. Mike will talk about "Pittwater and Broken Bay Pelagics on Fly", he will bring in a few of the patterns that he finds effective as well as a few lines and leaders.

Mike's talk will concentrate on where he fishes and how he approaches this stretch of water at different times of year, as well as the tackle he uses.

Mike set up Felty's Flies about 4 years ago as a business for his wife that combined his love of fly fishing, fly tying and travelling to exotic fly fishing destinations ("field testing").

He has fished most of his life, but started fly-fishing about 20 years ago. He does both freshwater (trout) and saltwater fly-fishing in South Africa but has focused on Saltwater exclusively for the last 8 to 9 years.

So don't miss the inside story on how to fly-fish Pittwater.

For all of those new members of Tattersalls, if you are interested in any type of fishing please come along to our meetings or make yourself known to me or email me, I am always around the club somewhere.

Simon Forsyth Flyrodders Convener

email: simon@f-a.com.au

Tattersalls Ski Club.

What a year to go skiing with Tattersalls. As I look at the forecast this week we are again getting more snow falls.

For those who are new to Tattersalls we have been running a ski club now for about 40 years. It was the swimming club boys late in the 60's who after what must have been a cold water swim, said lets go skiing.

Bill Rowe was our first convener with Bas Phillips and Terry Forrest who were brave enough to let the boys takeover Wirruna Lodge for the week long party- well nothing much has changed. Bas still skis like the wind in our downhill race which we now hold on the Nastar Course.

Of course back in those days everybody had a turn at cooking the meals. These days the boys are spoilt with our resident skiing chefs Glen Mair and Carlos Calisto who have been a fixture on our week now for 4 years.

So this year we have a full lodge again, with 28 skiers heading down on the 27th of July.

So if you are new to the club and want to become a Tattersalls skier just talk to Russ Debney or myself we are always around the club to have a chat or a beer.

Simon Forsyth Ski Club Convener

email: simon@f-a.com.au



New member
Geoff Miller's
huge flathead
about to meet
the family



Perisher Valley in June



Join the chairman on the last Thursday of each month following the committee meeting for free drinks in the members bar

Cluey cut and colours

in Vince's careful corduroys

Vince takes his corduroys seriously.

He's found some in Milan by a trouser specialist called Zanella.

Cluey?

Yes. Because his corduroy has enough body to be seriously warm, he's cut the trousers to be slim-waisted by eliminating the waist-pleat that often gives a fat look to corduroys.

Colours?

Just a bit different; a deep blue, closer to Prussian than navy, a gingerish honey-brown and a pale sort of beige-camel-green.

It's time. \$235.



Vince Maloney On-The-Park

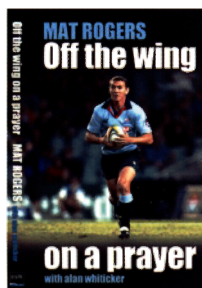
Next door to Tattersall's ph. 9264 8837

Archivist Required

Tattersalls is looking for a kind member to research and report back on the large number of stud books and racing manuals owned by the club. Anyone who has the time and interest please contact the secretary on 9264 6111.

Brasserie News

New menu commenced on July 15th. Remember Wednesday nights members' partners receive a free meal when dining with a member.



AUGUST 22ND

Lunch with Mat and His Mates

Tickets \$125.00 Lunch Only or \$140.00 with an autographed copy of the book

Joint MCs

Greg Clark – Fox Sports

Ken Sutcliffe – Nine Network

FOR BOOKINGS PHONE 9264 6111

Special Guests

Key members of Cronulla Sharks, Australian Kangaroos, New South Wales Waratahs and Australian Wallabies

NEW MEMBERS

The following have been proposed for Membership

NAME	OCCUPATION	PROPOSER	SECONDER
ANDERSON Simon Charles	Journalist	C Anderson	J Alexander
CONNELLY Dominic Sebastian	Personal Trainer	R Glover	R Sanders
MAY Douglas Warwick	Manager	R Glover	R Sanders
McGRATH Barnaby Robert	General Manager	P Starr	J Starr
MORRIS-SMITH Tim	Chartered Accountant	C McLeod	S Forsyth
TIGHE Anthony Hugh	Chartered Accountant	T Hughes	T Kennedy
WISE Stephen John	Director	S Cameron	J Markos

expertonline

we question Mark Roufeil,



Swimmer · Rugby Player · Golfer · Receiver · Most Consistent Trier.

Where were you brought up?

I'm a Guildford Westie. I attended Granville South school where I was captain in my final year. I competed in most sports without being a superstar. At the end of my final year, our sports master invented a special award for me: 'Most Consistent Trier'.

My parents always encouraged us to take part in sport and we learnt to swim in Granville pool - I went on to compete with Parramatta Swimming Club.

Our Granville coach was a funny old bloke who did it purely voluntarily - he taught discipline - he had a hearing aid and always wore a hat. He was a lot like the coach out of 'Rocky'. I played rugby league and when I'd strip off, he'd see my cuts and bruises and yell: "Give that game away, you're going to end up looking like Mark Harris!"

I did my surf Bronze Medallion at Freshwater and still do patrols at North Wollongong Surf Lifesaving Club.

And after school?

A Business degree in accounting. My part-time jobs ranged from storeman in a wine and spirit warehouse to paperboy at Flemington Markets - that was very educational... a world unto its own. The jobs gave me a taste for commerce and wine. After university I started in Liquidation and Insolvency and became a chartered accountant. It is satisfying to get something back for the creditors. They say a lot of what good doctors know, they learnt from operating on dead bodies.

I did a few short course triathlons, which meant I had to get my swimming in order. But it wasn't till I joined Tatt's in '95 that I started competing again.

You beat Wendel Sailor and Matt Rogers in switching from League to Rugby?

I played junior rugby league in the Western Suburbs comp, a season with the Parramatta Junior Eels and a few games in the seniors at Guildford. Grade league gets serious with money, ties to contracts and things, so with a bunch of friends I went off to Rugby Union. We joined a motley crew called the Nomads because they had no fixed abode.

Then came six seasons with Fairvale Old

Boys. We called it "Fairvale Rugby - a drinking club with a rugby problem". I was a hooker, but they put me on the wing and I made the mistake of taking a few bombs and that made it difficult to make it back into the forwards! The penalty for having moved between forwards and backs is you have to scull a beer. I was penalised a few times!

What differences did you find between the codes?

League was too serious which detracted from the sporting enjoyment. There are more skills in rugby - the mauling, clearing out - I didn't have a problem, because in my day, league scrums were contested.

My most enjoyable rugby year was when I was working in the city, so I couldn't commit to training, I asked: "Can can I just turn up and play?" The coach said, "OK, I know you can play a bit, so you can captain the 4th grade team and then sub for the higher grades". Every week, I'd be super sub at halfback or break-away or hooker. I always played fair... except when I played half-back.

Special Memories?

Tackling the old Kiwi forward Olsen Fillipana. I brought him down, but I think of it every time I step onto George Street and see the buses coming.

What keeps you busy these days?

In 1993 I joined Gavin Thomas setting up Gavin Thomas and Partners specialising in business reconstructions, insolvency and receiverships. I'm the Hon Treasurer of North Wollongong Lifesaving Club. I'm also treasurer of the Wollongong Golf Club where I play that addictive game.

I needed a gymnasium after a rugby knee reconstruction and Gavin said that Tatts was the best in town. George Gell gave me the intro. The swim club contact was the late Col. Bowes. Col said: "We get the races over and done with, have lunch and sit around telling a lot of lies." I said "that suits me, I should fit in well."

The highlights have been the Maui trip last year and the Ski Weeks - I wouldn't miss them or the Black Tie Boxing nights for quids.

